Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EEWT, EWWT, UR, US

SUBJECT: MARINE CARGO INSURANCE: CONTEMPLATED U.S.

SANCTIONS ON SOVIET SHIPPING

- 1. WE NOTE FROM MAY 26 EB/TRA INTERNAL MEMORANDUM (BANK TO ATWOOD) THAT CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO "APPROPRIATE PENALTIES," INCLUDING POSSIBLE IMPOSITION OF FEE ON SOVIET VESSELS ENTERING U.S. PORTS, IN LIGHT OF STR RECOMMENDATION ON AIMU COMPLAINT.
- 2. IF SUCH FEES ARE IMPOSED ON SOVIET VESSELS ENTERING U.S. PORTS, IT IS OBVIOUSLY QUITE POSSIBLE THAT SOVIETS WILL RETALIATE IN KIND AGAINST AMERICAN SHIPS CALLING AT SOVIT PORTS. WE ASSUME THAT IN EVALUATING WHAT PENALTIES WOULD BE APPROPRIATE IN THIS CASE, DEPARTMENT AND OTHER CONCERNED USG AGENCIES WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF RETALIATION AND WILL SEEK TO FIND SOME FORM OF REDRESS WHICH WILL DO MINIMUM DAMAGE TO COLLATERAL U.S. INTERESTS
- 3. WE BELIEVE THAT BEFORE SUCH A PENALTY AS A PORT FEE IS IMPOSED ON SOVIET SHIPPING, IT WOULD BE WELL TO INFORM THE APPROPRIATE SOVIET AUTHORITIES (PRESUMABLY DEPUTY CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE IVANOV) IN ADVANCE. WHILE WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT SOVIETS WOULD NECESSARILY BE MOVED TO ALTER THEIR OWN POLICY, THIS IS NOT ENTIRELY PRECLUDED, AND WE WOULD BE IN BETTER POSITION IF WE HAVE NOTIFIED THEM BEFOREHAND OF THE SANCTIONS. PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS CASE. MATLOCK

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